

# Daniel Ellsberg at FFF Conference, Part 1 of 8

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cts2xKOIJB4> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cts2xKOIJB4>)

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Daniel Ellsberg on "Iran and Iraq: The Need for Pentagon Papers" at the Future of Freedom Foundation's <http://fff.org> Restoring the Republic, 2007.

Daniel Ellsberg was born in Detroit in 1931. After graduating from Harvard in 1952 with a B. A. summa cum laude in Economics, he studied for a year at King's College, Cambridge University, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Playlist of Ellsberg's lecture: [http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=5FFB8C4C61A02CF6](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=5FFB8C4C61A02CF6)

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our first speaker Daniel Ellsberg was employed by the RAND Corporation when he began working on the top-secret Pentagon Papers analysis of decision-making in the Vietnam War of course those later became known as the Pentagon Papers struck by a an uncompromising conscience Daniel proceeded to photograph all 7,000 of the pages of the Pentagon Papers and then proceeded to release them to the Washington Post the New York Times and other publications knowing full well what the likely almost certain consequences were going to be and of course those consequences materialized then the Richard Nixon administration indicted him on 12 felony counts espionage releasing official secrets and so forth even though the the Pentagon Papers was just a straight truthful analysis of how we've gotten into the war and then and is the Trott they actually went to trials the trial proceedings before a jury all of the revelations about Watergate start coming out and including the illegal break-in not only of the Watergate building of course but of Daniels psychiatrist's office and at this point before the case reaches a jury for a verdict his lawyers move for dismissal based on wrongful misconduct of the government and as far as I know I think it's the only case there may be others but I think it's the only case where a indictment federal felony indictment has been in dismissed because of wrongful

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been in dismissed because of wrongful and misconduct by the government his book secrets which I'd highly recommend goes into all of this it was reached the bestseller list across the nation received many awards including the Los Angeles Times award for best book and so it's a real honor to have this man with us I mean this is a this is a life of Courage this is a life of principle please welcome Daniel Ellsberg who's talking on the need for Pentagon Papers today thank you very much so when I was invited to come here and I saw the list of speakers I accepted very promptly because anti-war calm is my homepage it so happens on my computer by default fade so the chance to see in the flesh people I'd been reading Rockwell Higgs Bogart my friend Justin Raimondo seen before and Karen Kwiatkowski and so that was a wonderful opportunity and Ron Paul where is Paul Craig Roberts by the way I love his stuff he didn't he didn't make it here but that's a real treat it's also been a little unusual experience for me in this particular crowd to have so many people come up and greet me very warmly and say I used to think you were a traitor and of course I'm glad to hear they're recovering but silly it is a reminder it is a reminder that there are still a lot of people out there no doubt some of whom you may know who see it in that fight as one person said to me I won't give his name but in the in the lunch line today if my mother knew I was in the same audience with you she'd be shocked you know she she would die and I said well don't tell her that and said

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said well don't tell her that and said how about your father he said honored I don't know so he just told me just now that he checked for this father who was fine with it but I but he told his father not to tell the mother they were here with me well it was very unsettling for me as an American 35 years ago to be hearing from so many fellow Americans or be told about other fellow Americans who thought that telling the truth to Congress and to the public could be treasonous actually that wasn't among the 12 counts of felonies that I was charged with even my prosecutor who hung everything on me he could think of did not find me guilty of attempting to aid and give comfort to the enemy and as somebody who's whose life had been spent really as I thought patriotically from the time of Pearl Harbor which I remember very well when I was 10 some of you will I remember we're even older than that and a lot not and who who enlisted in the Marines later during the Korean emergency and extended for a year because of the Suez Crisis when my battalion was going to the sixth Fleet and we were expecting to be involved in some kind of a war there which which we were actually the Suez Crisis my ship evacuated 1,500 civilians not to fire on an operation from Alexandria during the harbor while the British and French were bombing the harbor in fact and I remember at that time being very proud as somebody who had not voted for Eisenhower but a proud of my President Eisenhower then who had defined as aggression and act by our two closest allies the French and the British not to speak of the Israelis who weren't as clerk on an ally at that point and I thought that was that was wonderful that's why I joined the Marines that's why I went in during Korea the idea of fighting aggression seemed to me a very

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fighting aggression seemed to me a very very worthy project and I was proud to be able to do that as a Marine it so happened that I was before we did the evacuation we were steaming toward the southeast corner of the Mediterranean and I was at that point an Operations Officer before I extended I had been a company commander but I'd lost that as I was about to get out I was replaced by a major so Evans I was a first lieutenant of the time and but I was now an Operations Officer and I was making a plan they broke out the top secret war plans of the Sixth Fleet so I could do landing plans based on that and I was doing a plan for Haifa and the other assistant operations officer next to me was making a plan for Alexandria and depending on which side the president decided we were war with and we my assumption was that we had to use my plan against the Israelis we would probably not do too well after months at sea but if if we had to land at Alexandria and opposed landing we would cut through there we were very short without any problem in those days I remember I didn't care that much I was pleased in the end that we went against the aggressor in this case not that I was a fan of Egypt but that that was what we were actually recited I should say against the aggressor and but really as a former marine company commander who extended to be with the battalion I'd also been training officers floor and a company that I had been the company commander of and many commanded a number of platoons I did not had not wanted to read about their being in some kind of combat while I was back at Harvard enjoying a fellowship in the Society of fellows so I gave up that fellowship I was able to reapply a year later and I gave it up because he couldn't get an extension on it to be with my Italian so at that

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it to be with my Italian so at that point as I say I really didn't care too much and didn't regard his mind to think about which side the president would decide we would be on and that's the state of mind that I had I think when I went in to the government later in 1964 having in a consultant to the government for a number of years at the RAND Corporation before that so I started to say earlier for somebody whose life Minh spent fighting communism as I saw it and that's why I went to Vietnam in the end for the State Department and for this country it's very disconcerting to be called a traitor or to have people think of you that way and I the first couple of hundred times you hear that it's quite shocking I used to think that it's something you never get used to but actually in the last few years the word has been so devalued that not to have an Coulter call you a traitor is like being left off of Nixon's enemies list I had I I had friends who have never fully recovered for that actually having looked for their name you know others who say I was on higher than you I was on Dan

Schorr is very proud of them but I noticed just today for example in the Washington Post Mike Kinsley scholar he mentions that McCain quote came very close to accusing his two Democratic rivals Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama of treason because this is today no because as he said in a speech recently they were advocating surrender and of course you can come closer than that this administration does has quite a bit

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